

Honorable Committee Members:

This is Lin Yang from Woodbridge. I am writing to oppose [S.B. No. 184 \(RAISED\) AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.](#)

As an immigrant who never had the privilege to vote until I became a citizen of the United States, I observed a few local in-person elections with great amazement and admiration. The two opposing sides, most of the time just ordinary citizens, ran their campaign so hard with so much financial and emotional investment. But once the votes were in and the winners declared, the room was filled with hugs and warm words. This magnificent force of unity, the peaceful transfer of power, big or small, are built upon the trust of a transparent yet private voting system: in a very narrow time window and at a defined space, with so many local residents as poll workers and volunteers and observers, under so many pairs of watchful eyes of your neighbors and friends and other town folks, with strict privacy on how people voted. There is very little room for doubt. A simple act of filling out a ballot by eligible voters, and the absolute trust of the outcome after a seemingly chaotic voting day ensured the solid foundation of the American society.

Absentee voting system, contrary to traditional in person vote, happens without any viable mechanism of public monitoring, nor any guarantee of voting privacy other than a few words of assurance from Government officials. A handful of people in a few offices control the whole voting process out of public observations. The fact that it has generated so many controversies exposed the fatal flaw of absentee voting: the public does NOT trust it.

In any given election, the results went against the choices of some voters. The legitimacy of the next elected government and the strong conscience of working together are built upon a trustworthy election process. Absentee voting simply leaves too many potential loopholes and doubts. To ensure election integrity should not be a partisan issue; the debate went beyond whether Absentee voting favors any one party. Rather, this is a question that, for a small convenience, are we ready to pay for the price of jeopardizing the core values of the heart of American democracy.

I say NO.

I respectfully ask you to vote against SB No. 184.

Lin Yang

Woodbridge